

First Responder Safety Tips



FIRST ON SCENE CRITICAL SAFETY ACTIONS

- Minimize your exposure
- Do not try to shut down the lab
- Evacuate everyone from the vicinity of the lab site
- Secure the area
- Call for assistance
- Render first aid
- Avoid areas of odor, discoloration and visible danger
- Do not allow smoking around the lab site
- Do not touch or smell any lab equipment or chemicals
- Observe from a distance

FIRST TO RESPOND

- Designate a lead agency
- Identify actions taken so far
- Notify appropriate personnel - fire, police, child services, etc.
- Notify certified clan lab personnel
- Ensure proper safety equipment is worn
- Identify if there is a potential for fires or explosions
- If possible identify threatening environmental conditions
- Make arrests and or gather suspect information
- Complete all required documentation
- Collect evidence once it has been decontaminated

CHEMICAL ODORS OF METH PRODUCTION

- Ether-like: Aromatic, sweet odor often accompanied by a sweet taste. Sometimes described as a "hospital odor."
Nasal irritant.
- Solvent-like: Sweet odor from common solvents used in paint thinners, paint removers, adhesives, and cleaning fluids. Type of odor often found in an auto body shop.
Eye and nasal irritant.
- Ammonia-like: An intense, sharp, irritating odor similar to but much stronger than that from wet diapers, glass cleaners, cattle feedlots or fertilizers. **Eye and nasal irritant.**

BE AWARE OF INDICATORS OF METH USE

- Aggressive and violent behavior
- Hyperactivity and compulsiveness
- Paranoia and hallucinations
- Restlessness/agitation
- Dilated pupils
- Talkativeness

For more information on meth and related concerns, contact the
Indiana Meth Watch Program.
(877) 855-METH

First Responder Safety Tips

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE HOME

- Park within direct sight of the home's entry. Park in well-lit, unobstructed area. Don't park in driveway of home.
- Be aware of any drug paraphernalia in the area surrounding the home.
- Keep your hands as free as possible. Do not be distracted by talking on a cell phone.
- Present yourself calm, confident, observant and in control.
- Be aware of your surroundings and leave if your instincts tell you to.
- Leave the home immediately if you smell chemicals.

UNUSUAL SECURITY/VENTILATION

MEASURES

- Windows blacked out or covered
- Exterior video surveillance systems
- Elaborate fencing and heavy duty locks
- Fans positioned to ventilate the home
- Night vision equipment
- Protective, aggressive dogs
- Weapons and booby traps

ADDITIONAL INDICATORS OF A METH LAB

- Reddish stained coffee filters, canning jars with multi-colored liquids, aquarium-type tubing used in bottles or jugs
- Battery casings, crumpled/burnt foil
- Light bulbs with filament removed
- Bottles with clear tubing in the cap
- Propane tanks that the brass valve has turned blue

LARGE AMOUNTS OF INGREDIENTS, SUCH AS

- Cold and allergy medicine
- Anhydrous ammonia
- Lithium batteries
- Acetone
- Gas-line additive
- Table or rock salt
- Drain cleaner
- Starting fluid
- Brake cleaner
- Ether
- Lye
- Camping fuel
- Matchbooks
- Iodine
- Rubbing or Isopropyl alcohol



If you suspect meth production, leave the home immediately and contact your local law enforcement agency

Phone Number: _____